thetech.com

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WEATHER, p. 2

THU: 60° F | 55° F

Mostly cloudy

FRI: 75°F | 60°F Chance of showers

SAT: 80°F | 50°F Chance of showers

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Steer Roast canceled due to 'dangerous behavior' in S.H.

Unclear whether probation will affect frosh return

By Karleigh Moore

MIT administrators have canceled this year's Steer Roast due to an "ongoing review of credible information regarding dangerous behavior" in Senior House during the turnaround period, according to a joint statement from the Office of the Chancellor, Steer Roast veeps, and Senior House presidents. The statement was released Monday afternoon.

Steer Roast has been an annual concert and party that usually draws hundreds of alumni and other members of the MIT community. Senior House has traditionally hosted the event, and records indicate that the first Steer Roast may have taken place in 1963.

The Chancellor's office refused to comment on what dangerous behavior occurred, but the administration "has placed the Senior House community on probation."

The office also refused to comment on how many students were involved, whether the actions of a few students might have caused a community-wide probation, and whether the Cambridge Police are involved.

Steer Roast was funded in part by DormCon, which currently represents all undergraduate dorms. The \$5,500 that DormCon budgeted budgeted for Steer Roast will go back into DormCon's events budget for the spring semester and any remaining balance will roll over to next semester's budget, DormCon President Kate Farris '17 wrote in an email to *The Tech*.

"DSL will cover out-of-pocket costs the House has incurred planning the event," the joint statement said.

According to DormCon minutes from this year and last, organizers have been making an effort to emphasize that Steer Roast is a campus event, not just an event for Senior House. UA president Sophia Liu '17 told *The Tech* that she is concerned about "whether or not it's fair to punish an entire body of students for the actions of a few."

The Chancellor's office also refused to comment on whether there will be additional measures as part of the probation, and whether the probation will affect Senior House's ability to house freshmen in the coming school year.

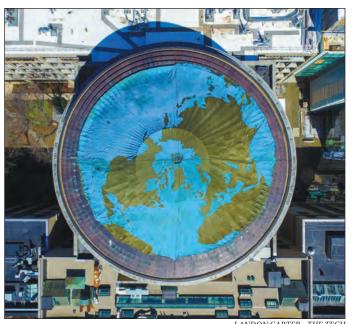
The Tech was forwarded a thread, nearly 100 emails long, that consisted largely of alumni expressing disappointment. Some offered support in writing emails to administrators, organizing alternative events, and withholding alumni donations.

A few responses from current students asked alumni to not take such actions.

Senior House co-president Jane Maunsell '19 wrote that Senior House will not endorse any event that alumni organize as an alternative to Steer Roast to avoid violating the terms of the current probation. It is unclear what specifically the probation entails, but social probations, which ban social events, have been levied against FSILGs in the past. Maunsell asked recipients to avoid antagonizing administrators.

The event was set to be held May 5–6.

Patrick Wahl contributed reporting.



ANDON CARTER—THE TECH



YUANCHENG YU—THE TECH

Hackers covered the dome of Building 10 with the Earth's northern hemisphere and hung the southern hemisphere across the ceiling of the Barker reading room in celebration of Earth Day.

IN SHORT

Drop date is today. Remember to submit the form after your advisor approves it in order to avoid late fees.

Baker House's piano drop is returning today at 3:30 p.m. The piano will be dropped around 4:15 p.m.

 $\label{lem:constraint} \textbf{The OneWorld@MIT Festival} \ will take \ place \ Saturday \ night. A cultural show \ will take \ place \ 5:30-7 \ p.m. \ in \ Johnson \ Athletic \ Center, \ and \ dance \ parties \ in tents \ across \ campus \ from \ 9:00 \ p.m.-midnight.$

Send news and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

Melvin and Martin elected to UA leadership

Plan to push for affordable dining, better mental health care and gov. relations

By Patrick Wahl

NEWS EDITOR

The UA announced Saturday that Sarah Melvin '18 and Alexa Martin '19 will serve as its president and vice president for the coming academic year. The pair, who will take office at the end of the academic year, have already begun the process of transitioning into their roles.

"I'm excited for Alexa and I to start working on all the things that we care about and campaigned about," Melvin said in an interview with *The Tech*. She added that she is nervous, but thinks that nervousness is important for her position because "it's a big role."

Melvin, who has served as a representative on both the UA Council and DormCon, said that "there's a lot of potential within the UA organization" and that she wants to "release that potential." She plans to continue a number of projects initiated by current president Sophia Liu '17.

These include improvements to

MIT's advising and career development systems, such as revamping both freshman and departmental advising to make advisors more useful and approachable and bringing a wider variety of employers, including non-profits, to Career Fair.

Melvin also plans to make student support and wellness a focus of her term. "Mental health resources will still be a huge thing for us going forward," she said, specifying that she will push for more resources on the west side of campus.

Melvin's third focus is on expanding undergraduate relations with local and national government. "It goes both ways. There are a lot of policies ... that affect MIT students, from when can we have parties, what those parties can look like, to how immigration policy affects students' ability to be here. And then it goes the other way, where MIT has a lot of influence particularly on our local area."

At the national level, Melvin hopes to develop a better relationship between the UA and the MIT

D.C. office, perhaps by sending representatives to the Washington office as the Graduate Student Council does. More locally, she plans to find "a point person" to serve as a liason between MIT student government and the Cambridge city government.

Additionally, Melvin will try to take an active role in negotiations for MIT's new dining plan, placing emphasis on affordability first, flexibility second. "We have to consider the fact that [a rollover meal or dining dollars system] may bring external costs," she said.

Melvin and Martin both expressed the desire to reform UA communications, both within the association and with the student body. "The UA represents and advocates for the entire undergraduate body, thus we must do a better job getting input and understanding the needs and desires of all students," Martin wrote in an email to The Tech

Melvin, who served as president of Senior House in 2016, said that one of the biggest differences

between the east and west sides of campus in relation to student government is that "people on the east side really like to fight for things, and they really do see things as changeable." She said that this perspective is important to have in the UA, and that she hopes to encourage more east side residents to join.

The UA president serves as an important liason between the MIT administration and the student body, two bodies which often have conflicting wishes. Melvin hopes to work through these issues by reframing discussions so that both sides can see the positives.

"I really do think that almost all of the time the students and administrators have the same fundamental goals," Melvin said.

The UA has also been criticized for its ability to enact meaningful changes for the student body. Melvin and Martin hope to solve this problem by recruiting more invested officers.

"One of the hardest things in student government is fighting apathy," Martin wrote.

MIT graduate and 'brilliant programmer' dies on campus

Nicholas W. Paggi '15, who graduated with degrees in computer science & engineering and physics, died on campus Tuesday night. He was a software engineer at Ab Initio at the time of his death. While at MIT, he was a resident of Bexley Hall and Senior House, and a member of the MIT sailing team.

Paggi worked as a UROP student in D-Lab's Mobile Technology Group during his last three semesters at MIT, and continued to contribute as a consultant over the past two years. Rich Fletcher '89, director of the group, said that Paggi was a brilliant programmer who developed low-level C-code libraries for the group's mobile health apps

Paggi, Page 4

EINSTEIN'S LIFE AND MIND

Three actressed put on a genius play. **ARTS**, p. 8



DAY OF ACTION

Shots of civic engagement events in Stata on Patriot's Day. **PHOTO**, **p. 6**



MARCH FOR SCIENCE

Shots of the MIT community at a rally and march on Earth Day. **PHOTO, p. 7**

A STUDY IN LOVE

The meeting of two systems of belief.

ARTS, p. 9

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Violence errupts at Venezuelan protests

Venezuelan government officials blamed the opposition for attacks against pro-government demonstrators on Monday during sit-ins organized by the opposition that gathered thousands in support of elections.

Officials said the casualties included two dead in gunfire in Mérida and Barinas states, among the places where opposition protesters gathered against President Nicolás Maduro.

The sit-ins were the latest in a series of large demonstrations over the past three weeks. They became almost daily occurrences after security forces on April 19 attacked crowds of peaceful protesters with rubber bullets and water cannons. The toll has mounted, with more than 20 deaths in looting and clashes with the security forces.

The most recent discontent arose on March 29 when the Venezuelan Supreme Court, controlled by leftist stalwarts, essentially dissolved the country's National Assembly and took on lawmaking powers for itself. The legislature is controlled by the opposition and is widely considered the last remaining institution independent of Maduro.

-Nicholas Casey, The New York Times

Kashmir shuts down social networks for a month

NEW DELHI — The government in India's Jammu and Kashmir state ordered internet service providers in the restive Kashmir valley to block social networking services there Wednesday, an unusually harsh measure to counteract escalating waves of protests and violence in the region.

In the order, the government notified internet service providers to block the transmission of messages on 22 social networking services, including Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter, for a month, or until further orders were issued.

The move illuminated a government increasingly vexed by civilian protests, by a newly budding homegrown militancy in south Kashmir and by a series of video clips, distributed on social media, depicting confrontations between civilians and Indian security forces.

The internet is often restricted in Kashmir — to prevent election interference and to quell protests and strikes, which often turn violent when police and security officers clash with

But the scope of Wednesday's order was far broader, reflecting the government's determination to stem the anger of a population that is growing increasingly difficult to control.

– Nida Najar, The New York Times

Study claims humans lived in North America earlier than expected

Prehistoric humans — perhaps Neanderthals or another lost species — occupied what is now California some 130,000 years ago, a team of scientists reported on Wednesday.

The bold and fiercely disputed claim, published in the journal Nature, is based on a study of mastodon bones discovered near San Diego. If the scientists are right, they would significantly alter our understanding of how humans spread around the planet.

The earliest widely accepted evidence of people in the Americas is less than 15,000 years old. If humans actually were in North America more than 100,000 years earlier, they may not be related to any living group of people.

Some experts were intrigued by the research, but many archaeologists strongly criticized it, saying the evidence did not come close to supporting such a profound conclusion.

—Carl Zimmer, The New York Times

The 7 key elements of the White House tax plan

Alan Rappeport

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Here are the most important changes in the tax plan proposed Wednesday by President Donald Trump:

Three Tax Brackets

The number of tax brackets for individuals is reduced from seven to three: 10 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent. That lowers the top rate by nearly 5 percentage points, easing the tax burdens on most Americans, including the rich. The Trump administration did not say where those brackets begin and end.

Double the Standard Deduction

Currently, individuals can deduct \$6,350 and married couples can deduct \$12,700 from their taxable income. Trump's plan would double the standard deduction. That is intended to put more money in the pockets of the average taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions. It has the added benefit of simplifying the preparation of tax returns for more people.

Repeal of AMT

The alternative minimum tax

makes it harder for very rich individuals to game the tax system and pay less tax. It is an aggravating tax for the well-to-do, what Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin called a "complicated" additional system of taxation. The provision cost Trump an additional \$31 million in federal income taxes in 2005, and now he wants to kill it.

Lower Capital Gains Tax

Under the plan, the top federal capital gains rate is cut from 23.8 percent to 20 percent. This is achieved by eliminating a 3.8 percent tax that is used to fund the Affordable Care Act. The reduction is meant to create greater incentives for people to invest.

Repeal of Inheritance Tax

What some Republicans called the "death tax" dies under the Trump plan. According to the Tax Foundation, the U.S. inheritance tax as of 2014 is the fourth highest in the world. Although the administration said that the tax was a burden on farmers and small businesses, critics of Trump will likely complain that he is helping his family and rich friends.

Preserving Deductions For **Mortgages and Charity**

Trump wants to eliminate all individual tax deductions except for those that relate to mortgage interest and charitable giving. Those are two of the most popular provisions in the current tax code. However, these could become unnecessary to most taxpayers because of the much higher standard deduction. State and local taxes would no longer be deductible, a concern for people in high-tax states.

Cut the Corporate Rate

Lowering the corporate tax rate from 35 to 15 percent is one of the most aggressive moves that Trump is making in his plan. The administration says it gets the rate down to where it is for most other industrialized nations. The Tax Foundation says this will reduce revenues by \$2 trillion over 10 years, and it is not clear that it will generate enough economic growth to compensate for that. The plan also calls for a special one-time tax — though the rate was not disclosed - to entice companies to bring back money they made overseas.

War with North Korea is not imminent

Mark Landler

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump summoned all 100 members of the Senate for a briefing by his war Cabinet on the mounting tensions with North Korea. A U.S. submarine loaded with Tomahawk missiles surfaced in a port in South Korea. Gas stations in the North shut down amid rumors that the government was stockpiling fuel.

Americans could be forgiven for thinking that war is about to break out. But it is not.

The threats and military muscle-flexing on both sides overstates the danger of a clash between the United States and North Korea, senior Trump administration officials and experts who have followed the Korean crisis for decades said. While Trump regards the rogue government in the North as his most pressing international problem, he told the senators he was pursuing a strategy that relied heavily on using China's economic leverage to curb its neighbor's provocative behavior.

Recent U.S. military moves — like deploying the submarine Michigan and the aircraft carrier Carl Vinson to the waters off the Korean Peninsula - were aimed less at preparing for a pre-emptive strike, officials said, than at discouraging the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un, from conducting further nuclear or ballistic missile tests.

There are other signs that the tensions fall short of war. Kim continues to appear in public. South Koreans are not flooding supermarkets to stock up on food. There is no talk of evacuating cities and no sign the United States is deploying additional forces to South Korea. Nor is the U.S. Embassy in Seoul advising diplomats' families to leave the country.

All those things happened in the spring of 1994, when President Bill Clinton was considering a pre-emptive strike on a North Korean reactor to prevent the North from extracting plutonium that it could use to make a bomb. That is the closest the United States has come to a military clash with North Korea since the end of fighting in the Korean War in

None of this is to say there is no risk of miscalculation that could escalate into hostilities. Trump's penchant for provocative statements introduced an element of unpredictability to a relationship in which the uncertainty has historically been on the North Korean side. How Kim reacts is the major variable in a complicated equation.

North Korea is also steadily adding to its nuclear arsenal and edging closer to testing an intercontinental ballistic missile, tipped with a warhead, that could hit the United States. Intelligence estimates vary on how quickly that could happen, but some say within three years, a timetable that would put a successful test within Trump's term in office.

April Showers Give Way to Warmer Weather for **OneWorld**

By Costa Christopoulos

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Boston has seen its fair share of rain over the last couple weeks, but some warmer and drier weather is on the way for the weekend. Today, we are between systems as a weak front approaches from the west. Friday morning, the passing front will bring a possibility of rain showers in the early afternoon and a high around 75°F (24°C). As southwesterly flow strengthens behind the front, temperatures should approach the 80°F mark by Saturday afternoon. The

price we will pay for warmer weather is a chance of showers during the day, but any rain should die down by the evening. For OneWorld, expect mostly cloudy skies with temperatures in the lower 60s°F (16°C).

Slightly cooler weather returns after Saturday, with high temperatures dipping back into the lower 60°F on Sunday and Monday. We then have a break from precipitation, as the next

blame the weather.

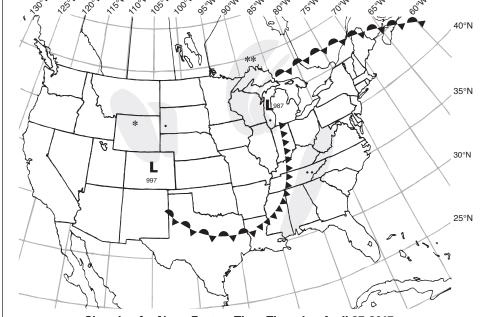
Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy. High 60°F (16°C).

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Low 55°F (13°C).

High 75°F (24°C).

heavy rainfall does not come until Tuesday. Saturday may not be the driest forecasted day, but it will be the warmest. If you need some justification for a Saturday study break, just



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, April 27, 2017

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols			Other Symbols	
High Pressure	Trough		Snow *	Rain	Fog	
High Pressure	Warm Front	Showers	∇	Ÿ	Thunderstorm	
Low Pressure		Light	*	•	OO Haze	
8	▲▲▲▲ Cold Front	Moderate	**	••	Compiled by MIT	
§ Hurricane	Stationary Front	Heavy	**	·.	Meteorology Staff and The Tech	

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers in the afternoon. Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers in the late after-

noon. High 80°F (27°C). Sunday: Mostly sunny. High 60°F (16°C).

White House said to draft plan for U.S. break from NAFTA

Mark Landler

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is likely to sign an executive action that would begin the process of withdrawing the United States from the North American Free Trade Agreement, a senior administration official said Wednesday. The move is intended to increase pressure on Congress to authorize new negotiations, and on Canada and Mexico to accede to U.S. demands.

Trump has repeatedly derided NAFTA, describing it last week as "very, very bad" for the country, companies and workers, and he promised during his campaign that he would remove the United States if he could not negotiate improvements.

The White House wants Congress to approve those negotiations under legislation that would allow expedited approval of the reworked agreement, but talks between administration officials and congressional Republicans have moved slowly. The order would give Trump a credible alternative.

The United States must give six months' notice before exiting the 1994 trade agreement; the order would start the clock.

Trump could change his mind. While some of his senior advisers, notably Stephen Bannon and economist Peter Navarro, are eager to take strong steps on trade policy, another group, which includes Gary Cohn, the head of the National Economic Council, have argued for a more cautious approach, concerned that larger steps could cause economic disruptions.

Lately, Trump has taken the stronger line, moving to reshape America's economic relationships with foreign nations. The NAFTA order comes on the heels of an announcement of new tariffs on imports of Canadian lumber, and of reviews of whether imports of steel and aluminum are undermining national security.

Walking away from NAFTA would disrupt the economies of the United States and its nearest neighbors and strain broader relations among the three countries. Over the last two decades, their economies have become increasingly intertwined. The volume of trade has multiplied, and the manufacture of many goods, notably cars, involves multiple border crossings and factories in all three countries.

If the United States actually pulled out of the deal, experts said,

trade with Canada would probably still be subject to a similar agreement between the two countries that took effect in the late 1980s and that served as a model for NAFTA. The Trump administration, however, could seek to withdraw from that agreement, as well.

The shift in the rules governing trade with Mexico would be more significant. The two countries both take part in the World Trade Organization, but that agreement allows much higher tariffs. The disruptions to manufacturing could also come at a hefty cost to consumers.

Even the suggestion of withdrawal, first reported by Politico, heightened anxieties in financial markets. The peso fell more than 2 percent against the dollar, and the Canadian dollar fell about 0.3 percent. As it happens, those declines make Mexican and Canadian imports cheaper for American customers, while increasing the costs of American goods in those countries, working against Trump's stated intentions.

Both Mexican and Canadian officials have said repeatedly that they are ready to negotiate changes to the trade agreement. Written in the early 1990s, it is outdated in key respects: Its drafters, for example, did not foresee the rise of the internet.

Parties in France unite against far-right candindate Le Pen

Aurelien Breeden and Adam Nossiter

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS — A day after mainstream parties were dealt a heavy defeat in the French presidential election, far-right leader Marine Le Pen, one of the two candidates to advance to a runoff, condemned the parties' calls to unite against her and support her rival, independent centrist Emmanuel Macron.

Le Pen's statement on Monday denouncing "the old and completely rotten Republican Front" — the coalition of mainstream parties allied against her — sums up her challenge in the May 7 runoff. So far, not a single rival party has called for its voters to support Le Pen. And she has no plausible major reservoir of votes to add to the 21.3 percent she received in the

first round of voting, though she is expected to gain some voters from defeated center-right candidate François Fillon.

Perhaps in an effort to broaden her appeal to voters from outside the far-right National Front's traditional constituencies, Le Pen announced on Twitter Monday that she was temporarily stepping down as the party's leader so she could run as a candidate for "all the French."

"Tonight, I am not the president of the National Front, I am the presidential candidate, the one who wants to gather all the French around a project of hope, of prosperity, of security," she said in an interview on French television.

Most of Le Pen's rivals have gathered around the effort to defeat her. Only one major candidate has resisted calls to unite

against her: Jean-Luc Mélenchon, the firebrand hard-left candidate who came in fourth and who has pointedly refused to support Macron, saying instead that he would seek the opinion of his supporters through his website. Similarly, traditionalist Roman Catholic organizations that backed Fillon refused to endorse Macron on Monday.

Some of Le Pen's advisers said, in interviews with French media Monday, that they were hoping to lure some of the supporters of the defeated Mélenchon.

Stock markets opened higher Monday across Europe, a sign that investors were relieved by Macron's strong showing.

Polls released Monday showed that about 60 percent of voters supported Macron, compared with less than 40 percent for Le

U.N. experts condemn killing and torture of gay men in Chechnya

Sewell Chan

THE NEW YORK TIMES

United Nations experts demanded on Thursday that Chechnya halt the abduction, detention, beating and killing of gay and bisexual men, after weeks of reports about violent repression there.

"These are acts of persecution and violence on an unprecedented scale in the region and constitute serious violations of the obligations of the Russian Federation under international human rights law," the experts, a panel of five that advises the U.N. Human Rights Council, said in a statement.

The experts noted that much of the abuse was reported to have taken place at an unofficial detention center near Argun, a town about 10 miles east of Grozny, the Chechen capital.

"The arrested men are subjected to physical and verbal abuse, torture including with electric

shocks, beatings, insults and humiliations," the experts wrote. "They are forced to give contact details of other gay people and threatened with having their sexual orientation disclosed to their family and community — a move which could put them at risk of 'honor killings."

Since last month, reports have circulated within Russia that local militias and security forces have been hunting down, detaining and abusing men they perceived to be gay or bisexual. On April 1, a leading opposition newspaper, Novaya Gazeta, confirmed those reports, citing Russian federal law enforcement officials, who blamed local authorities.

Dozens of men are said to have been rounded up, but precise numbers — including a death toll — are not available.

Since 2007, Chechnya — a mountainous republic within the Russian Federation and the site of a long-running insurgency that

Russia eventually crushed — has been led by a strongman, Ramzan A. Kadyrov, who has been granted significant leeway in exchange for his allegiance to the Kremlin.

According to Novaya Gazeta, the persecution intensified after a group based in Moscow, GayRussia.ru, applied for permits to stage gay-pride parades in four cities in the North Caucasus region.

The group did not apply for a permit in Chechnya, but it did in another Muslim area in the region, Kabardino-Balkaria. The mere application there — denied, as usual — prompted an anti-gay counterdemonstration.

The U.N. experts demanded that authorities immediately release all detainees, thoroughly investigate the anti-gay campaign and hold the persecutors accountable.

The experts condemned statements by Chechen officials suggesting that gay people should be hunted down and killed.

Over 1,000 people are detained in raids in Turkey

ISTANBUL — More than 1,000 people, accused of being "secret imams" for a U.S.-based cleric who the authorities have said was responsible for a failed coup in July, were detained Wednesday in the largest such sweep in months.

The civilian detainees are accused of directing police officers also loyal to the cleric, effectively creating a parallel leadership.

Over 9,100 police officers were suspended later in the day because of their alleged links to the movement, Anadolu Agency, a state-run news wire, reported Wednesday night.

About 45,000 people have already been taken into custody since the coup attempt, but the raids on Wednesday represented the first widespread roundup of political opponents since a referendum on April 16 to expand the powers of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Some analysts had wondered whether the crackdown might slow as Erdogan tried to establish greater national consensus after winning the contentious referendum, but the scale of the raids suggested it was just as likely to accelerate. The sweeping purge of state institutions has led to the firing of about 130,000 people.

— Patrick Kingsley, The New York Times

South Korean military accused of cracking down on gay soldiers

SEOUL, South Korea — At a time when South Korea is struggling to deter North Korea's nuclear threats, human rights advocates say its military is targeting gay soldiers in its ranks.

In recent weeks, the army has focused on dozens of those soldiers in what rights groups say is a campaign against gay men in the 620,000-member military. At least 32 faced criminal charges of "sodomy or other disgraceful conduct," according to the domestic news media and lawyers and rights advocates familiar with the

The army declined to provide details of its investigation. But it insisted that it was not cracking down on gay soldiers; instead it said that it was trying to root out sodomy and other homosexual activities, which right-wing Christian groups have called a growing blight on its readiness to fight North Korea's 1.2 million-strong military

Advocates say that by punishing gay soldiers, the government was sending the wrong message in South Korea, where the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are a largely taboo and politically unpopular subject.

Although South Korea has made strides in democratizing and improving basic rights in recent decades, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people have been largely left out, rights groups said.

—Choe Sang Hun, The New York Times

Hard-line Republican caucus backs plan to repeal Obamacare

WASHINGTON — The House Freedom Caucus, a group of hard-line conservatives who were instrumental in blocking President Donald Trump's plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act last month, gave its approval Wednesday to a new, more conservative version, breathing new life into Republican efforts to replace President Barack Obama's health law.

Senior White House officials, led by Reince Priebus, the chief of staff, have relentlessly pressed Republicans to revive the health care push before Trump's hundred-day mark on Saturday, and with conservatives falling into line, the bill has a chance to get through the House, possibly as early as Friday.

It was not clear whether conservative support for the revised legislation would be matched by losses in the center. But the rest of the House Republican Conference was left with a stark choice: Reject the measure and take the blame previously left at the feet of conservatives for undermining a central goal of the administration, or give it the nod, please voters who want a repeal, and risk taking a potentially fatal hit in the next election for approving a measure expected to leave tens of millions of Americans without insurance.

The latest proposal, drafted by Rep. Tom MacArthur, R-N.J., a moderate, would allow states to obtain waivers from federal mandates that insurers cover certain "essential health benefits," like emergency services, maternity care, and mental health and substance abuse services, which many Republicans argue have driven up premiums.

It also would permit states to waive requirements that insurers charge the same rates for people the same age, essentially ending the current ban on rejecting coverage for pre-existing conditions if state governments establish high-risk pools where sick people can purchase health care.

Democrats assailed the latest proposal, saying it did nothing to help the 24 million people who, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, would lose coverage by 2026 under the repeal bill. — Jennifer Steinhauer and Robert Pear, The New York Times

Trump orders review of education policies

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump issued a sweeping review of federal education policies Wednesday in an executive order to pinpoint areas where the government may be overstepping in shaping operations of local school systems.

The order requires Betsy DeVos, Trump's education secretary, to review, modify and possibly repeal any regulations and guidelines that are not consistent with federal law.

Trump described the order as "another critical step to restoring local control" and one that fulfills one of his campaign promises.

The review will be conducted within 300 days, and its findings will be published in a public report. It aims to ensure that local leaders will have the final say "about what happens in the classroom," said Rob Goad, a senior Education Department official.

DeVos is already empowered to rescind guidance and regulations, and she has already done so, and any attempt at overturning laws would be subjected to a legal, regulatory process.

—Erica L. Green, The New York Times



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Paggi, from Page 1

and wrote "difficult multi-threaded Android code that no one else could do"

"He was a thoughtful and patient mentor to the other students in the group," Fletcher said. "Nick was well-read, had a great sense of humor, and I always enjoyed having conversations with him discussing the future of technology and artificial intelligence. The world has lost a kind soul and great thinker. We will miss him very much."

Paggi's death "appears to have been an accident," Sarah McDonnell, media relations manager at the MIT News Office, stated in an email to *The Tech*.

In an email to the MIT community, President Rafael Reif wrote that "our hearts go out to Nicho-

las's family and friends as they cope with this unexpected loss," and encouraged anyone affected to reach out to Mental Health and Counseling, Student Support Services, Graduate Personal Support, and MIT chaplains.

— Vivian Zhong



Solution to Piano

1	7	5	9	3	6	4	2	8
2	6	3	7	4	8	9	5	1
8	9	4	5	1	2	6	7	3
6	4	2	1	8	5	3	9	7
9	3	1	6	7	4	5	8	2
7	5	8	3	2	9	1	4	6
3	2	6	4	9	7	8	1	5
4	1	7	8	5	3	2	6	9
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7	1	6	5	4	3	9	2	8
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6	8	7	3	5	4	1	9	2
1	3	9	8	2	7	4	6	5
4	2	5	6	1	9	7	8	3
5	7	3	1	8	6	2	4	9
8	6	1	4	9	2	3	5	7
9	4	2	7	3	5	8	1	6

Solution to Crossword

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Forum on **Racial and Environmental Equity and Justice**

Prof. Robert Bullard The Quest for Environmental and Racial Justice for All: **Why Equity Matters**

For more than three decades Robert D. Bullard has been at the forefront of the environmental justice movement through his teaching, lectures, scholarship, research, service and activism. His lecture at MIT explores how the environment justice framework redefined environmentalism and challenged institutional racism and the dominant environmental protection paradigm. Much of his life's work has been devoted to uncovering the underlying assumptions that contribute to and produce unequal protection and brings to the surface the ethical and political questions of "who gets what, when, where, why, and how much." Bullard's research has documented that some communities have the "wrong complexion for protection" and living on the "wrong side of the tracks" can be hazardous to one's health

Thursday, April 27, 3-4:30pm, 26-100

Meet and Greet 2:30-3pm Light refreshments and snacks provided

RSVP: https://goo.gl/wLk6Rt





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6 The Tech





ANSELMO CASSIANO—THE TECH

SPEAKING OF WARGES HOSE MILLING MAKES HOSE MAKES HOSE MAKES HOSE MAKES HOSE MAKES HOSE MILLING MAKES HOSE MAK

MIT Day of Action

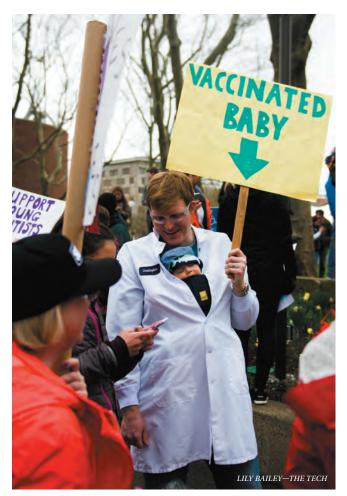
On Patriot's Day, a series of talks and workshops on civic engagement was held in and around Building 36. The event was organized by a network of faculty, staff, and students, including Roger Levy, Sally Haslanger, Ceasar McDowell, Sherene Aram, Julio Oyola, Stephanie Toews Moeling, Tse Yang Lim, Patrick Brown, and Elise Bickford.





Thursday, April 27, 2017

The Tech 7





March for Science

On Earth Day, people gathered in more than 600 cities across the world to celebrate science and its role in everyday life. Members of the MIT community attended a rally outside W20 before crossing the river to join forces with the march in Boston.







THEATER REVIEW

Sweet dreams are made of this: wonder

Alan Lightman's surreal Einstein's Dreams is adapted for the theatre.

ARTS EDITOR

A clock ticks. A woman smells a yellow rose. A second woman joins hands with her. They waltz together, clearly in love. A third woman greets the audience. The first and second women love and grieve; one of them grows ill and dies. The third woman returns to comfort the first. The clock rewinds; a woman smells a yellow rose.

Their lives are both encumbered and liberated by time — the three women cannot escape their tragic cycle — but none more than Albert Einstein, who cannot escape his own ideas. Tortured physicist

Einstein works to finish his paper, and consequently, Einstein leaves an indelible legacy in physics — the theory of special relativity. Physics might be founded upon mathematics, but this fictional Einstein also dreams of the metaphysical and the metaphorical.

At the play's core lies a great tragedy. Genius, it seems, demands sacrifice; Einstein's obsessive work ethic drives away friends and strains his relationship with his wife. His health wanes as he favors work over food and drink. Here we have a man so exhibit so exhibit a so exhi work becomes his life. When Einstein finally relents and goes fishing with his friend,

his friend admits: Einstein looks terrible.

But terrible is a far cry from the show the choreographed actresses, the surreal lighting and projections, and the haunting musical score will enchant you. The three women, Alexandra Vincentini Boles from Wellesley, Alexa Mae Garcia '17, and Sabrine Ahmed Iqbal '17, play all of the roles: Einstein and his psyche, his wife, the typist, the narrator, and the personifications of time. Like energy and matter, they switch between ideas and human beings.

As if in an acausal universe, we witness a series of events, randomly unfolding, moment by moment unlinked one after the other. But this is theatre, and director Neerja Aggarwal G must tie these unlinked events cohesively. Aggarwal frames Einstein's dreams for the observer in segments that prioritize atmosphere over plot: abstract thought experiments of time intertwine with Einstein's life, breaking and coming together again.

Spectacular moments of choreography and lighting hold our attention. In one moment in the midst of darkness, strobe lights flash; the faces of the three women seem to freeze in time; we witness paused expressions changing intermittently. In another, two women become clocks, moving their arms like clock hands. Projections are used behind the set: the bookshelves of Einstein's workspace, black and white videos, budding green leaves. Time ebbs and flows like poetry, relentless.

From Einstein's Dreams, I took away less of an understanding of time and more of a mutual recognition, less of Einstein's biography and more of his fiction. Yet the spirit of discovery and the thought experiments remain true to any scientist. Curiosity is an inherently human trait, and the explorative creation of this production mirrors Einstein's own. Before the show, audience members are led to a room with a typewriter - a functioning one that we could play around with - and the planning materials for the show. Drawn diagrams, set design notes, books, and other plans are all displayed. The audience is let in on an intimate secret, held close to the creative process, then to the stage and entrenched in a series of dreams; the clock ticks on.



Alexandra Vincentini Boles from Wellesley, Alexa Mae Garcia '17, and Sabrine Ahmed Iqbal '17 perform in Einstein's Dreams.

Einstein's Dreams

Presented by MIT Theater Arts and MIT Dramashop

Adapted by Wes Savick

Directed by Neerja Aggarwal

Kresge Little Theatre April 13-15, 20-22, 2017

THEATER REVIEW

Can religion and reason agree on love?

The Underground Railway Theater at Central Square Theater presents Paradise

Paradise

Written by Laura Maria Censabella

Directed by Shana Gozansky

Artistic Director Debra

Cental Square Theater April 6-May 7

By Mariam Dogar

STAFF WRITER

The compatibility of science and tradition has long been a contentious issue, grappled by scientists and nonscientists alike. Reason and religion are often seen as clashing, similarly to how Western individualism contrasts conventional collectivism.

In Paradise by Laura Maria Censabella, these issues are addressed through two lenses. Yasmeen (Caitlin Nasema Cassidy), a bright and hopeful Muslim-American teenager, and Dr. Guy Royston (Barlow Adamson), a disillusioned and disgruntled biology teacher, present starkly different views when it comes to these issues. By the end of the play, the two characters walk out of the classroom with completely changed attitudes on a variety of levels due to their collaboration on scientific research and their emotional investment in each other's problems.

The first scene opens on a visibly frustrated Dr. Royston sitting at his desk in a high school classroom in the Bronx. The former Ivy League professor seems agitated by almost everything — the bustling noise of the children outside in the hall, the lighting in the room, and the cracks on the wall, expertly crafted by the scenic designer (Jenna McFarland Lord).

Then, Yasmeen, enters, offering a dramatic contrast in energy levels. Yasmeen hugs her backpack tightly to her, bright-eyed and bubbly. She chatters on about her biology test Dr. Royston had recently graded, and how she could not get a bad grade in the class. Dr. Royston hardly pays attention, shooing the young girl away and occasionally making rude comments.

However, Dr. Royston, a renowned neuroscientist who fell from the graces, can't resist a good research question. Haunted by love lost and believing the view that love is a basic need and craving that must be satisfied, Dr. Royston can't resist getting involved with Yasmeen's research focused on love in the young brain. For both Yasmeen and Dr. Royston, studying love is driven not only by a passionate scientific inquiry, but also a personal pursuit to figuring out how to make life more complete and what drives human beings to devote time and energy to each other. Yasmeen impresses him with her intellect, and by the end of the play, she has an opportunity to go to Columbia.

However, it is a long road to get there. Yasmeen is persistent, and returns over and over again to Dr. Royston's classroom during her free time, despite his negative comments. She comes armed with bits and pieces from her culture. Whether it is presenting him with a traditional dagger, patiently answering his inquiries, quoting verses from the Qur'an, or gifting him Yemeni sweets, she fights the negative stereotype in his head. He spends the first part of the play extremely reluctant to let the girl burrow her way into his life, but with every new tradition and opposing view, Dr. Royston's hard outer shell softens.

One of the first cultural differences occurs when Dr. Royston tries to close the door to the classroom, and Yasmeen stops him immediately, saying she can not be alone in a room with a man. She cites her faith as the reason and explains how people would say bad things if they found out; however, later on in the play, the door gets closed. When Yasmeen learns about the parts of the brain, Dr. Royston taps different parts of her head with a pencil and asks for their names. When Yasmeen has a panic attack, Dr. Royston is the one to get up close to her and calm her down. These are just a few of many examples of Yasmeen and Dr. Royston first accommodating each other's cultural views and then altering the rules of their relationship as they grow personally.

Dr. Royston initially scoffs at Yasmeen's tendencies and beliefs, but these eventually turn into values and characteristics that he respects and appreciates. Her self-sacrificing nature in regards to her family is an interesting initial point of contention. Her uncle wants her to be married to another Yemeni man, and doesn't know of her intellectual passions. From Yasmeen's point of view, her obligation to follow her uncle's wishes and put her sisters and family first is virtuous. Her arranged marriage represents security and financial relief. However, Dr. Royston can't fathom this. He views the marriage as chains being wrapped around Yasmeen. He believes she doesn't owe her future to anyone, and that she would be wasting her mind and life if she doesn't put herself first. However, going through the experience with Yasmeen helps Dr. Royston appreciate the high stakes of the situation and Yasmeen's love for her family.

Yasmeen recognizes that she faces multiple personal and professional issues that could hinder her pursuit of her dream career in neuroscience. She represents a contemporary woman attempting to balance re spect for her culture and the desire to be an individual. Her devotion to both her ethnic roots and to the American dream and what it offers produces in a variety of issues.

As a child socialized in multiple cultures, Yasmeen's environment-dependent identity fragmentation leads to a major source of personal growth for not only her but also Dr. Royston, who witnesses her story play out. Dr. Royston starts off as a brisque, uninterested stranger, but turns into an invested, dedicated mentor. The two individuals rely on their interactions with one another to address their deepest desires and fears, and the audience becomes personally invested in the story of Yasmeen and Dr. Royston, hoping to see their success and friendship grow.

The director, Shana Gozansky, refers to her relationship with the play as "more than a connection. It's a haven." Especially in a time where a nuanced understanding of other cultures seems to be missing, the play is a sight for sore eyes. Yasmeen and Dr. Royston experiencing the growing pains that come with the clash of cultural differences, but overcoming it anyway, puts on a moving performance that is heartwarming and

THEATER REVIEW

AKISAKISA

What to do when you cannot mend *Every Piece* of *Me*?

Every Piece of Me tries to patch together the strewn pieces of an Irish family

By Ivy Li

Aine (Sarah Hirsch) takes out a music box, playing a nostalgic song from her youth. She sits alone in her family's Irish grocery store, having just returned from New York with her fiancé, Hunter (Charlie Tisch). She hides her engagement from her family (though they guess this easily enough) and another secret from Hunter. Her father, Joe (Stephen Cooper), is now in poorer health, although he remains enthusiastic about hurling, hefting around a hurley. Aine's mother, Bridie (Maureen Adduci), yells at Joe to take his pills, criticizes her two daughters, but loves her family dearly.

As in many dramas, this family is dysfunctional. These people would fit into a soap opera or perhaps a sitcom, but they are far from being one-note. Their words bounce off each other, caustic and loving. Communication is crucial for this family, yet dialogue falls apart like paper being shredded. You would be hardpressed not to feel sorry for their situation, but pity is not the same as empathy. These characters

are not written as pitiful victims of misfortune; rather, they love each other in the only ways they know how.

Joe wants to leave the pub to Aine and Hunter to go to the Canary Islands. Her sister, Deidre (Maggie Markham), resents Aine for leaving her behind with her family, but still cares about Aine. Aine is sent away to New York and only returns due to her fiance, unsure of how to tell them. Bridie has a maternal awareness of the family, knowing that Aine living with her family was the cause of her depression; when Bridie originally sent her daughter off to New York, it was out of love, even if Aine did not see it that way. An ocean might have divided their lives but the affection remains. Joe toasts to Aine's marriage. Bridie makes efforts to speak with Aine. Deidre and Aine resolve their differences.

Hunter, the American, delivers speeches about the importance of open communication that can border on sappy. Fortunately, his naive ignorance of Irish sensitivities are a good source of humor. His abnormal honesty wins Joe over. In a world of people whose words jab at each other with hid-

den daggers, Hunter seems oblivious. A jovial character, Hunter is visibly distraught when Aine finally reveals her secret. It is a painful scene to watch.

Should we feel obligated to reveal ourselves entirely? Can relationships be constructed on a bedrock of lies? We know the truth will out itself (it has a habit of doing so). Despite his promises, Hunter brings his own happily-ever-after to a halt. The conclusion is not that of comedies like *Twelfth Night* in which the reveal sets the world right. Instead, it is like life: it is messy; it is gruesome; and here, it is heartbreaking.

The highlight of this play is Deirdre. Played enthusiastically by Markham, she breathes much needed energy and humor into the play. She is quick to speak her mind; verbal fireworks occur between her and every other character. When she is introduced, Aine is surprised that Deirdre is pregnant. Deirdre explains her hopes to be a single mother with such sincerity that even her usual biting sarcasm couldn't keep the excitement from her voice. When she goes into labor, we laugh sympatheti-

Every Piece of Me

A Boston University New Pay Initiative Production

Written by Mary Conroy

Directed by Zohar Fuller

Boston Playwrights'
Theatre

April 20-30, 2017

cally with her misfortune while celebrating the birth of a new life offstage. Even more heartwarming, her mother, who never hides her disdain of Deirdre's decision, remains to comfort her. Every Piece of Me is an exploration of cultural clashes and the moments when communication collapses. It is the story of a family trying to fit together pieces that no longer fit in a heartwarming drama

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BALLOT CLOSES APRIL 30

Piano

Solution, page 5

		5	9		6			8
	6				8		5	
	9			1		6		3
						3	9	7
			6		4			
7	5	8						
3		6		9			1	
	1		8				6	
5			2		1	7		

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

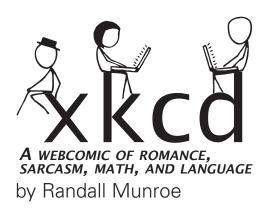
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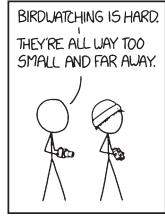
Solution, page 5

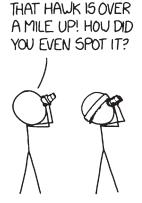
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8				2	3		7
	4			5	8		

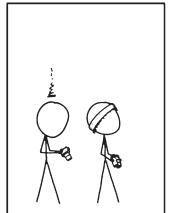
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

[1826] Birdwatching











No, tell the park rangers to calm down, it's fine-I put a screen on the front. I just want to get the birds a little closer.

Oratorical by Charles Slack

Solution, page 5

ACROSS

- 4 Young fellow
- 7 Fleet of warships 13 Try to act like
- 15 Prolonged attacks
- 16 Retiree's oration 18 Join up
- 19 Toward sunup
- 20 Pub drinks
- 21 Curds and __ (Muffet's meal)
- 23 Part of a play
- 26 "That's right!"
- 27 Love, in France
- 29 On a cruise
- 31 Warning signal
- 32 Becomes inedible
- 33 Football coach's oration
- 37 Lacking principles
- 38 Angler's spools
- 39 Excessive sternness
- 40 Fortunate
- 41 Tip of a shoe 44 Physicians, for short
- 45 Elephant tooth 46 Hand over legally

- 47 Seize suddenly
- Mideast republic
- 51 Convention oration
- 56 Stop from squeaking 57 Small suitcases
- 58 Playful talk
- 59 Hurricane center
- 60 __ la la

DOWN

- 1 Submit an amended Form 1040
- 2 Mental pictures
- 3 Scalds
- 4 Suburban grass
- 5 Ingested
- 6 Penna. neighbor
- 7 Analyze, as alloys
- 8 Tears apart
- 9 Get together 10 Historical period
- 11 Caroling mo.
- 12 Fire residue
- 14 Summer zodiac sign 17 Sly look
- 18 Utter 21 Early bird's reward

- 22 Shoulder-to-
- 23 Shortest-named
- continent 24 Modern phone, for short
- 25 Work assignment 27 Church platform
- 28 Postal delivery
- 29 Answer a want ad
- 30 Small fry
- 31 Spherical hairdo 32 Hunt for
- 33 Do damage to
- 34 In the center of
- 35 Fireplace fuel 36 Quick kiss
- 40 Stop from
- squeaking
- 41 Little riddle 42 Ukrainian port
- 43 Snaky fish
- 45 Spud
- 46 Top of a wave
- 47 Tiny fly 48 Stood up
- 49 Doing nothing
- 11 12 13 15 16 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 32 33 | 34 | 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 47 | 48 49 50 52 53 54 | 55 56 57 58 59 60
 - 50 __ Lanka
 - 51 Cold War spy org. 52 Historical period
- 53 Strong desire
- 54 Urban rd. 55 Clear as __

Thursday, April 27, 2017

The Tech 11

TECH TRANSFERS

Fadel Adib

Immigrant members of the MIT community

I was born in Tripoli, Lebanon in 1989 — the same year the civil war ended. I grew up listening to stories of how my parents narrowly escaped the horrors of a sectarian civil war. My parents enrolled us in a secular school, and I didn't know who among my best friends were Christians or Muslims until I was in middle school. It didn't really matter to us.

By the time I entered high school, politics had started creeping into our daily lives. From high school through undergrad, I had to live through a couple of wars and a series of political assassinations. They were frustrating; they made me feel helpless. At the same time, it was heartwarming to witness how people came together for humanitarian support in times of war and struggles.

When I came to the US for graduate school in 2011, my first pleasant shock was to see that there were no political distractions. I could simply focus all my time on what I loved doing: research and exploration. Today, as an assistant professor at MIT, I wish my students had that same luxury. Somehow, divisive politics made its way into people's lives in the US over the past year. But I am hopeful: growing up in Lebanon has taught me that such precarious times bring people together toward common, higher goals.

Fadel Adib is an Assistant Professor in the Program in Media Arts and Sciences.

Editor's note: Tech Transfers is a photo series by Professor Daniel Jackson that features immigrant members of MIT.

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Fadel Adib, Assistant Professor in the Program in Media Arts and Sciences.

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SPORTS

Shotokan club has successful effort this past weekend in joint Shoto Cup

Bv Vazrik Chiloyan TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

This past weekend on Saturday, Apr. 22, the MIT and Harvard Shotokan Karate clubs hosted the first Harvard-MIT Shotokan Cup at the Malkin Athletic Center on Harvard University campus. The tournament drew participants from MIT, Harvard, BU, Tufts, UMass Dartmouth, Cornell, UConn, and the University of Toronto. The tournament included both kata (forms) and kumite (sparring), with skill levels of beginners, intermediate, and advanced divisions.

The MIT Shotokan Karate club had a consistently strong performance across many of the divisions and events. The team had members competing in team kata, team kumite, individual kata, and individual kumite among the beginner, intermediate, and advanced skill divisions. Points were accumulated from each division to contribute to the final score for each college, and MIT was able to secure a win. The team had been training hard throughout the semester to develop not only its advanced members, but also the students with only a few months of Karate experience. In fact, many of the points that helped secure the MIT team win came from students who participated and scored with just a month of Karate training.

Anuhya Vajapeyajula '18 won first place in white belt kata, and Giuseppe Romano won second place in white belt kata and white belt kumite, Saurabh Gandhi G won third place in beginner kata and beginner kumite, and Anselmo Cassiano won third place in intermediate kumite. For the black belt division, the black belt women of MIT took top three in kata, with Kaymie Shiozawa '19 in first, Prianka Bhatia '17 in second, and Avril Kenney '11 in third. Shiozawa and Kenney also scored secon-



MIT Shotokan Karate club celebrates their performance this past weekend in the first ever Harvard-MIT Shotokan cup.

dand thirdin their kumite division. Phil Ferguson G fought his way to an impressive second place in the male black belt division for kumite.

Most impressive was their performance in the black belt division. The team of Ferguson, Bhatia, and Kenney won first place for MIT in the team kumite, and the team of Shiozawa, Bhatia, and Cassiano won first place for MIT in

team kata, performing Empi ('Flying Swallow'). The biggest moment of pride was witnessing the revamped passion for the study of Shotokan Karate in the New England area colleges and beyond. There will be a second, larger installment of the Harvard-MIT ShotoCup in the fall of 2017. Currently, the MIT Shotokan Karate club practices three days a week throughout the semester, IAP, and also over the summer. Beyond this ShotoCup tournament, the MIT Karate club will also be joining the Japan Technical College karate tournament, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year in late November.

Vazrik Chiloyan an instructor and member of the Shotokan Karate club at MIT.

SOMALILAND

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Mustafa is the first person in his family's lineage to attend school.



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SPORTS BLITZ

Men's Baseball (17-10-1) went 4-1 last week defeating Emerson College, Roger Williams University and two of three games against Wheaton College

Women's Softball (21-9) went 1-5 last week losing two games each to Tufts and WPI and splitting a doubleheader against Wellesley.

Men's Tennis (14-4) went 2-2 last week winning against Rensselaer and Clark University but dropping games to Brandeis University and Bowdoin College

Women's Tennis (12-7) dropped a game against Middlebury College last week

Men's Lacrosse (9-4) won their two games last week against Emerson College and Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Women's Lacrosse (7-7) split their two games last week losing to Wheaton College but bouncing back to defeat Emerson College

Sailing placed 1st of 16, 5th of 10, and 13th of 17 in the Boston Dinghy Challenge Cup, Morris Trophy and Reed Trophy over the weekend

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